Smuggling of Opium through U.P., Nepal Border

1310. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record production of opium in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether consequently there has been a rise in opium smuggling through its porous border with Nepal;

(c) whether the smugglers in turn are bringing firearms into the country; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to curb this smuggling on Uttar Pradesh-Nepal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Intelligence gathered and seizures made during the year do not indicate any such trend.

(d) Cultivation of opium is permitted under Government's strict licencing, supervision and control. Strict vigil is maintained by the Indo-Nepal Border Police, Central Bureau of Narcotics, Customs, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau and other State Enforcement Agencies to check illicit diversion/smuggling of opium and other contraband. Stringent action is taken under narcotic laws in all cases of embezzlement of opium by cultivators and drug traffickers.

R.B.I. Building of Bhopal

†1311. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of office building of Reserve Bank of India at Bhopal was completed in 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Reserve Bank of India has not so far started the operation of its Public Accounts Department and Public Debt Office; and

(c) if so, by when the officers of Reserve Bank of India at Bhopal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.